

Grace Presbyterian Church

12 March 2023 Third Sunday of Lent 9:30 am

VISION STATEMENT

We are an open and affirming congregation, we genuinely welcome people of all ages, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, beliefs, and those who are cognitively and or physically challenged. Our vision is that each of us is a minister seeking to know Christ, grow in discipleship, and embody God's love for the world.



“Never to be Thirsty Again”

Prayer Candles

Before Worship, you may offer a prayer and light a candle at the communion table.

We Gather

PRELUDE

Vince DiMura

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call to Worship

Come, let us sing to Yahweh;

Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into the Divine presence with thanksgiving;

Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

It is good to give you thanks, O Yahweh;

To sing praises to your name, O Most High;

to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

and your faithfulness by night,

to the music of the lute and harp, to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O God, have made us glad by your work;

At the works of your hands we sing for joy.

Opening prayer

Holy, Creating, Creative God,

We sing from the depths of our sorrow.

We sing from the abundance of our joy.

We sing in voices separate and unique.

We sing with one voice as your body.

May the words of our mouths,

whether in speech or song,

and the meditations of our hearts,

whether in prose or poetry,

be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

written by Joanna Harader, and posted on the Spacious Faith blog. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

*Opening Hymn #386 "Come, Worship God"

Call to Confession

All too often, we tell God we will do better, and be better, and then just go on living the same way we always have. Let this be the moment, when we tell our God of our failures and faithlessness, so we can go forth to work in that kingdom of grace and hope.

Join me as we pray,

Prayer of Confession

We would want to be fountains of hope for others, O God of glory, but people find only hardened hearts.

We would like to be transformed people, but our stubborn pride prevents us from bending a knee to you.

We long to stand with those who are in need, but our selfishness keeps our backs rigid in judgment.

Forgive us, God, and humble us, that we might be true servants to the broken and lost.

Split open our frozen hearts, that compassion might flow freely to those who are hurting.

Fill our minds with the presence of your Spirit, that we might learn how to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into that kingdom of grace and hope.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Words of Assurance

This is the good news: in Christ, God's plan for salvation was accomplished. You are forgiven, you are made new.

We will complete God's joy by sharing compassion, forgiveness, hope, with everyone we meet.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn #544 Bless the Lord 3X (Stay seated)

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

**We come to you just now thirsting
for your living water.
Guide us to the streams of
your wonder and glory,
your justice and righteousness,
your grace and mercy,
that we may drink and be satisfied,
renewed for our continuing journey with Jesus.
Amen**

~ posted on the Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren website.

Reading from Exodus 17:1-7

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of John 4:5-42

SERMON

Rev. Deborah Paton

*Hymn of Response # 475

"Come thou Fount of Every Blessing"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is **to Know, Love, and Serve God**

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

Vince DiMura

Hymn #694 "Great God of Every Blessing" vs 1

Prayer of Dedication

(Thank you to all those whose contributions and offerings sustain the church. You can give online by visiting the church website or arranging for recurring donations with your online banking).

Prayers of God's People (sharing of Joys and Concerns)

Lord, in your mercy/in thanksgiving, **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever, Amen.**

We Are Sent

*Hymn #623 "I've Got Peace Like a River"

*Charge and Benediction

Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to:
walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God
walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High
walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you. Amen.

~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on her Spacious Faith blog

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you!

And also with you.

(We invite you to offer a sign of peace to those around you and as you gather for fellowship. We remind you to ask what folks feel comfortable with...a verbal greeting, a handshake or fist bump, etc. Do not assume.)

POSTLUDE

***Indicates, please stand in body or spirit.**

All songs not from Glory to God are used by permission of CCLI #1124594